

REMARKS

Claims 1-29 are pending in the present application; all claims have been rejected in the present Office Action.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,243,377 (Phillips); Claims 2-11, 14, 15, 18, and 20-29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,266,340 (Pickett); and Claims 12-13 and 16-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Phillips, in view of Pickett, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,953,409 (Carlsen).

Phillips discloses enabling simultaneous transmission of voice and data signals over a single subscriber line. Signals are time division multiplexed preferably using an ISDN access format such as the Basic Access or Primary Rate formats, but are treated separately at the exchange. Subscriber equipment combines signals from local computer and telephone devices for separation at corresponding exchange equipment.

The present invention describes an integrated access device (IAD) system in an Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) system, where a first adapter is connected to the telephone in a one to one correspondence and has Time Division Multiplex (TDM) channel information associated with the first adapter. The first adapter is used for converting a voice signal received from the telephone to voice data and transmitting the voice data on a corresponding TDM channel via a telephone line. A second adapter is connected to the computer in a one to one correspondence and has TDM channel information associated with the second adapter. The second adapter is used for transmitting data received from the computer on a corresponding TDM channel via the telephone line. It is noted that both adapters use one telephone line.

The Examiner erroneously equates RU 10 of Phillips depicted in its Figure 1 to the IAD system of the present invention identified by numeral 250 in Figure 1 of the inventive application. The Examiner refers to column 2, lines 18-30 and column 4, lines 4-50 of Phillips as teaching limitations recited in Claim 1 of the invention. These sections, however, teach away from the inventive recitation. Specifically, column 2, lines 22-26 of Phillips, reads:

"At the exchange premises connections are made such that voice signals pass through the circuit switched public telephone network in the usual way while data signals pass through a packet switched network and avoid the telephone network."

Similarly, column 4, lines 4-50 of Phillips describe Figs. 4 and 5, which clearly show a telephone line 46 that bypasses components of the remote device of Fig. 4 to reach the telephone set 13. In Fig. 5 the telephone line 56 bypasses components of the exchange device to reach the circuit switch. The telephone or voice data is clearly not managed in Phillips.

Contrarily, the present application recites in Claim 1 an integrated access device (IAD) used for receiving voice signals on the downlink voice channels and data on the downlink data channels, transmitting the voice signals and data in time division multiplex (TDM) formats to corresponding telephones and computers, and transmitting voice signals and data generated from the telephones and the computers to the Multiservice Access Concentrator System (MACS) on corresponding uplink voice channels and data channels in response to the received voice signals and data.

Moreover, Claim 19 recites a first adapter connected to the telephone and having time division multiplex (TDM) channel information associated with the first adapter, the first adapter being used for converting a voice signal received from the telephone to voice data and transmitting the voice data on a corresponding TDM channel via a telephone line. It is noted that unlike the prior art, the step of "transmitting the separated signals to the corresponding networks" executed following the steps of "receiving compressed signals from each home master via the general subscriber line" and "decompressing the compressed signals", as recited in Claim 19, is carried out via the same telephone line.

The present invention, in the above referenced recitations of independent Claims 1 and 19, clearly recites managing voice signals, these limitations are not taught or described in Phillips. For at least these reasons, Claims 1 and 19 are believed to be patentable. Without conceding patentability of Claims 2-18 and 20-29 these claims depend from Claims 1 and 19, respectively, and are patentable at least for the same reasons.

Accordingly, the claims pending in the Application, namely, Claims 1-29 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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